

EXHIBIT “A”

Dear Mr. Joyce:

An MRI scan was ordered and the patient was followed up on March 1, 2006. The MRI was notable for a C5 to C7 neuroforaminal

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Thomas J. Joyce, III
RE: GEOFFREY CROWTHER
November 9, 2008
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stenosis and herniated discs at both the C5-6 and C6-7 level with left-sided nerve root impingement. The patient at that point had a full course of conservative care including steroids, both oral and injected, which gave him only short-term relief. As such, I offered him an anterior discectomy and fusion operation. He had work related financial constraints and deferred at that time.

The patient was re-evaluated on November 1, 2006. He reported over the course of the previous 6 months time between visits, his pain had, if anything, worsened. He developed a heaviness in his left arm and an increase in his numbness pattern. I once again offered him an anterior discectomy and fusion operation, which he, at this point, agreed to proceed with.

He underwent said operation in January of 2007. His postoperative course was uneventful. He actually healed steadily over the ensuing 6 months time. He eventually was diagnosed as well with an arthritic condition of his knees and underwent a total knee arthroplasty for that condition.

It is my opinion, based on a reasonable degree of medical certainty, that Mr. Geoffrey Crowther sustained cumulative micro-trauma to his neck as a result of his strenuous labor on the railroad over the course of 30 years time from 1975 through 2006. The lifting, stooping, bending, awkward postures and vibration all contributed to the progression of this degenerative disc condition and resultant herniations at the C5-6 and C6-7 levels, confirmed on the MRI scan of 2/08/06. They, therefore, contributed to, as well, the cervical surgery, which Mr. Crowther underwent on January 17, 2007.

In my opinion, Mr. Crowther remains permanently impaired as a result of his injuries and the subsequent surgery. Based on the AMA guidelines to permanent impairment, he has an 18% whole body impairment rating.

Signed and sworn to under the pains and penalties of perjury, this _____ day of November 2008.

Sincerely yours,

R. Scott Cowan, M.D.

RSC/bh